IN THE SPECIFICATION

A copy of the Abstract that was previously filed with the application is attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

Presented below are the amended claims in a clean, unmarked format under §1.121(c)(1).

1. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a housing having a plurality of at least four ports, each of the plurality of ports coupled to a corresponding one of a plurality of at least four fibers;

a plurality of collimating lenses disposed within the housing, each of the plurality of collimating lenses to receive a light beam from a corresponding port of the plurality of at least four ports; and

a beamsplitter coupled to the plurality of collimating lenses to receive the light beam from each of the plurality of collimating lenses, the beamsplitter having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area to simultaneously receive the light beams received from each of the plurality of collimating lenses.

5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the beamsplitter has an inner surface and each of the light beams have a P-polarized and a S-polarized component, and wherein the beamsplitter has a coating on the inner surface to separate the S-polarized and P-polarized components of the light beam into spatially separate beams.

11. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a housing having a plurality of ports, each of the plurality of ports to receive a corresponding fiber;

a plurality of collimating lenses disposed within the housing, each of the plurality of collimating lenses to receive a light beam from a corresponding port of the plurality of ports; and

a beamsplitter coupled to the plurality of collimating lenses to receive the light beam from each of the plurality of collimating lenses, the beamsplitter having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area to simultaneously receive the light beams received from each of the plurality of collimating lenses, wherein the plurality of ports comprises first, second, third, and fourth input ports and first and second output ports, and wherein the beamsplitter is coupled to receive S-polarized light from the first and third input ports and P-polarized light from the second and fourth input ports, the beamsplitter to combine S-polarized light from the first input port with P-polarized light from the third input port, the beamsplitter to combine S-polarized light from the second input port with P-polarized light from the fourth input port.

22. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a housing having a plurality of ports, each of the plurality of ports to receive a fiber;

a plurality of GRIN lenses disposed within the housing, each of the plurality of GRIN lenses to receive a light beam from a corresponding port of the plurality of ports; and

a rhombic prism having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area, the common optical aperture coupled to the plurality of GRIN lenses to receive the